

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03 DPW-01 AID-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3301

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10833

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR MOPS CA HU ID PL VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 16 1973(CAN TH)

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO DATED JUNE 16
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 464

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 16, 1973

SUMMARY: CEASEFIRE II BEGAN IN THE DELTA WITH A RECORD
NUMBER OF VC/ NVA ATTACKS. VC/ NVA " VIOLATIONS" WERE
NUMEROUS IN CHUONG THIEN BUT NOT INTENSE. BA XUYEN
REPORTS NO VC- INITIATED INCIDENTS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE
HOUR. A CANADIAN ICCS TEAM WILL DEPLOY TO HONG NGU JUNE
16. SOME CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN CHAU DOC CAMPS RE CROSS
INTO CAMBODIA. END SUMMARY.

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1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) THE DELTA CELEBRATED THE BIRTH OF CEASEFIRE II WITH A SPLENDID DISPLAY OF MILITARY PYROTECHNICS. MR IV CLAIMED 102 VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS FOR THE JUNE 15/16 REPORTING PERIOD, THE HIGHEST SINCE RIGHT AFTER CEASEFIRE I. EXACTLY ONE HALF OF THESE INCIDENTS OCCURRED AFTER THE NEW CEASEFIRE SUPPOSEDLY WENT INTO EFFECT AT NOON, JUNE 15. THERE WERE SEVEN GROUND ATTACKS, 73 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND 22 HARASSMENTS. THE MAJORITY OF ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN CHUONG THIEN, ALTHOUGH NO GROUND ATTACKS TOOK PLACE THERE AFTER THE CEASEFIRE HOUR. FIGHTING IN DINH TUONG CONTINUED TO FALL OFF FROM PREVIOUS DAYS. MR IV CLAIMED REGIONWIDE 148 VC/ NVA KILLED AND SEVEN CAPTURED, AT A COST TO ITSELF OF 39 KILLED, 195 WOUNDED AND TEN MISSING. THE RVNAF REPORTEDLY SEIZED SIX CREW-SERVED AND 64 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.

(B) CEASEFIRE II LASTED EXACTLY THREE MINUTES IN AN XUYEN AS ARVN ARTILLERY IN CA MAU CITY OPENED UP AT 1203 HOURS JUNE 15 ON SUSPECTED VC POSITIONS SOUTH OF TOWN. "THEY WERE THREE OF THE NICEST MINUTES WE 'VE EVER HAD," LAMENTED THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WAS ROUTED FROM A PEACEFUL LUNCH BY THE SOUND OF THE BIG GUNS. THE ARTILLERY WAS RESPONDING TO THE VC MORTARING DURING THE MORNING OF NHA PHAN OUTPOST ON ROUTE 12 SIX KILOMETERS SOUTH OF CA MAU CITY.

(C) THE VICE CONSUL IN BA XUYEN REPORTS NO VC- INITIATED INCIDENTS THERE SINCE THE NEW CEASEFIRE. THE PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD HIM AT 0845 HOURS JUNE 16 THAT HE HAS ISSUED ORDERS BANNING ARTILLERY FIRE. THE PROVINCE CHIEF SAID HE HAS A COPY OF THE NEW PARIS AGREEMENT BUT HIGHER HEAD-QUARTERS HAS GIVEN HIM NO INSTRUCTIONS ON IMPLEMENTING IT. ACCORDINGLY, HE WILL CONTINUE TO FIRE ON THE VC IF THEY SHOW THEMSELVES IN A HOSTILE MANNER. HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ALL BA XUYEN HAMLETS ARE GVN AND HE WOULD FIGHT THE VC IF THEY APPEAR. IF THE VC CONTACT HIM BY RADIO HE SAID HE WILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH 21 ST ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER, BGEN LE VAN HUNG, BEFORE RESPONDING. SO FAR THE VC HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED SUCH CONTACT.

2. ICCS/ JMC: (A) REGION VII GVN/ JMC SECRETARY MAJOR NGUYEN DUC TUAN SAID JUNE 16 THAT ALL SEVEN REGION JMC
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CHIEFS HAVE GONE TO SAIGON FOR A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND CEASEFIRE. TUAN SAID THAT MR IV VC/ NVA ACTIVITY HAD IN SOME AREAS LIKE CHUONG THIEN INCREASED IN INTENSITY SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CEASEFIRE. HE SAID THAT FIGHTING IN THE REST OF MR IV WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS PRE- CEASEFIRE LEVELS. TUAN ALSO SAID HE THOUGHT THE VC WOULD CONTINUE

TO " FOLLOW THE SAME PATH AS ALWAYS" IN SPITE OF THE NEW
CEASEFIRE COMMUNIQUE. HE POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT
THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS GROUND ATTACKS IN CHUONG
THIEN SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. (COMMENT: CHUONG THIEN SECTOR
SOURCES TOLD A VICE CONSUL ABOUT 1000 JUNE 16 THAT THERE
HAVE BEEN NO GROUND ATTACKS THERE SINCE NOON JUNE 15.
DURING THE SAME PERIOD SECTOR DID REPORT 27 ABF' S AND ONE
HARASSMENT. THE VICE CONSUL VISITING MAJOR TUAN NOTED
THAT TUAN SEEMED TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF SENDING
HIS PROBABLY INCORRECT VERSION OF CHUONG THIEN ACTIVITY
TO HIS SAIGON SUPERIORS. END COMMENT.)

(B) REGION VII ICCS IS SUPERVISING THE DESTRUCTION OF
A LARGE AMOUNT OF OLD AND DETERIORATED AMMUNITION. THE
DESTRUCTION, SPREAD OVER SEVERAL DAYS, IS TAKING PLACE
ABOUT EIGHT KILOMETERS FROM CAN THO. THE EXPLOSIONS
PERIODICALLY RATTLE WINDOWS IN THE MR IV CAPITAL.

(C) CANADIAN REGION VI CHIEF COL MURRAY C. JOHNSON TOLD A
VICE CONSUL THAT A TWO MAN CANADIAN TEAM WOULD DEPLOY
JUNE 16 TO HONG NGU. HE EXPECTED THE INDONESIANS TO
FOLLOW ON JUNE 19 AND THE POLGARIANS EITHER JUNE 18 OR
19. ONE HITCH REMAINS. TWO PIECES OF ARTILLERY ARE
PARKED IN FRONT OF HONG NGU DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, THREE
BLOCKS FROM THE ICCS COMPOUND. THE ICCS WANTS THEM REMOVED
LEST THEY DRAW NVA FIRE. SUBSECTOR AUTHORITIES HAVE PRO-
MISED TO DO SO. THE CANADIANS FEAR THE GUNS' PRESENCE
MAY DETER THE POLGARIANS' DEPLOYMENT ON THE
GROUNDS OF A WANT OF SECURITY IN HONG NGU.

3. REFUGEES: THE NUMBER OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN TWO
CAMPS IN TINH BIEN DISTRICT, CHAU DOC, SWELLED TO AN
ESTIMATED 8365 LAST WEEK, THE HIGHEST YET REPORTED. THERE
ARE ABOUT 15,000 KHMER REFUGEES, MOSTLY FROM CAMBODIA'S
TAKEO PROVINCE, IN TINH BIEN AND TRI TON DISTRICT.
UNTIL RECENTLY HALF HAVE BEEN LIVING OUTSIDE THE CAMPS.
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WITH THE END OF THE PLANTING SEASON, HOWEVER, UNEMPLOYED
REFUGEES ARE DRIFTING INTO THE CAMPS, REGISTERING WITH
CAMBODIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS THERE, AND PARTAKING OF THE
SERVICES OFFERED BY THE RED CROSS AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
WELFARE. ABOUT HALF OF THE REFUGEES IN CAMP HAVE NOW ASKED
THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING HOME.
PERHAPS 1000 KHMER HAVE RECROSSED THE BORDER IN THE PAST
TWO WEEKS, MANY BY WAY OF HA TIEN DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG.
BARNES
UNQUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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